

We claim:

1. A method for adjusting a screen display based on a user's distance from the display device comprising the steps of:

5 establishing a relationship between the distance of a user from a display screen and the size of the display on the screen;

detecting the movement of the user with respect to the display screen;

adjusting the size of the screen display based on the location of the user with respect to the display screen; and

displaying the display in the adjusted display size.

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2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing a threshold distance of the user from the display screen.

15 3. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising before said size adjusting step, the step of determining whether detected movement of the user is beyond the established threshold distance.

4. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising the step of establishing a local user area within a defined distance from the display screen.

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5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
determining whether display has multiple sections; and
when display does have multiple sections, identifying a selected section by user for adjustment.

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6. The method as described in claim 4 wherein the threshold distance is the outer boundary of the local user area.

30 7. The method as described in claim 2 wherein the threshold distance comprises multiple threshold ranges.

8. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising before said adjusting step, the step of determining whether said detected user movement is a valid movement.

9. The method as described in claim 8 wherein said valid movement determination
5 step further comprises determining the amount of time a user is out of the local area.

10 The method as described in claim 9 further comprises the step of establishing a minimum time the user has to be out of the local area to trigger a movement beyond the threshold distance.

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11. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for adjusting a screen display based on a user's distance from the display device comprising:

instructions for establishing a relationship between the distance of a user from a display screen and the size of the display on the screen;

15 instructions for detecting the movement of the user with respect to the display screen;

instructions for adjusting the size of the screen display based on the location of the user with respect to the display screen; and

instructions for displaying the display in the adjusted display size.

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12. The computer program product as described in claim 11 further comprising instructions for establishing a threshold distance of the user from the display screen.

13. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising before
25 said size adjusting instructions, instructions for determining whether detected movement of the user is beyond the established threshold distance.

14. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising instructions for establishing a local user area within a defined distance from the display
30 screen.

15. The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising:
instructions for determining whether display has multiple sections; and
when display does have multiple sections, instructions for identifying a selected
5 section by user for adjustment.

16. The computer program product as described in claim 12 further comprising before
said adjusting instructions, instructions for determining whether said detected user
movement is a valid movement.

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17. The computer program product as described in claim 16 wherein said valid
movement determination instructions further comprise instructions for determining the
amount of time a user is out of the local area.

15 18. The method as described in claim 17 further comprises instructions for
establishing a minimum time the user has to be out of the local area to trigger a
movement beyond the threshold distance.

19. A system for adjusting a screen display based on a user's distance from the
20 display device comprising
a display device;
a distance approximation device for determining the location of a user from said
display device;
software for determining the whether the determined distance of a user from the
25 display device is beyond an established threshold distance; and
software for adjusting the size of the display on the display device based on the
determined distance of the user from the display device.

20. The system as described in claim 19 wherein said distance approximation device
30 is part of the display device.

21. The system as described in claim 19 wherein said distance approximation device is positioned immediately adjacent the display device.

22. The system as described in claim 19 wherein said size adjusting software further
5 comprises routines to adjust one or more sections of the display.